



Pastor Kurt Billings to Retire at the end of September



“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

So proclaims the writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes. And so, after 36 years in ordained ministry, 22 of which have taken place here at St. James, the time has come for me to retire.

In September of 1987, I began my ministry at Overland Park Lutheran Church, in Overland Park, Kansas. In September of 1993, I was called to Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Madison. And on September 1st, 2001, I began my ministry here at St. James. And now, all these years later, I will begin a new chapter in my life at the end of September. My last Sunday at St. James will be September 24th.

I will leave with a grateful heart, more wonderful memories than I can count, and a twinge of sadness. I will be forever thankful to Pastor Frank Maxwell for starting the conversation with me about St. James, and to all the wonderful people here who have welcomed me into their homes and into their lives. It has been a privilege and an honor to have been called to this place, and to have been in ministry with you all these past twenty-two years. But now the time has come for me to step away and experience a new rhythm of life. With a spouse who is already retired, along with a new granddaughter, I look forward to a schedule that will allow me the time and freedom to spend more time with them, as well as with family and friends. And so as I begin the process of saying goodbye, know that I do so thanking God for our time together.

St. James is a wonderful community of faith, and with Pastor Peter and the great staff that is in place, I know it will continue to thrive long after I am gone. And for that, I am thankful as well.

In gratitude and love,

Pastor Kurt

A Celebration will be planned for Pastor Kurt at the end of September.

As we begin the process of hiring a new pastor, the Congregational Council will be holding listening sessions on August 6 after the 9:00 am worship service and on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 pm after the Community Meal.

We invite all members to attend.

Our Semi-Annual Meeting to elect new members to the Council will be held on Sunday, August 28 at 9:00 am.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Saturday at 5:00 pm & Sunday at 9:00 am

9:00 am is LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Communion Served on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month.

Phone: 608.845.6922

www.stjamesverona.org

Fax: 608.845.6903

Sunday Coffee & Donuts – A weekly ministry of St. James

Over the years, a favorite memory of mine remains the young children dashing after worship through the dining room to grab a donut (and some lemonade). There's no need for the rush, as we rarely run out. But the enthusiasm and delight are infectious. Of course we wonder if a parent sometimes says, "If you sit still through Pastor Kurt's/Peter's sermon, you can even have *two* donuts."

Our coffee time really is a ministry – a prime example of receiving, growing, and giving. We delight when a newer member or visitor is standing and someone at a table says, "Come and sit with us." Strangers become acquaintances, and acquaintances may become friends. We simply call it "growing together."

Special thanks to those who have and continue to volunteer to be coffee hosts on Sunday mornings – the stop at Millers, the setting up, making coffee and stirring lemonade – all signs of God's love, creating a space where stories are shared and our community is strengthened. You are much appreciated.

One of our newer members, John Gallagher, appreciates our weekly Sunday morning gatherings, and was inspired to write a poem for us. Thank you, John!

Just grab a cup of St. Jim's Joe,
Settle in and let the stories flow;
Listen with empathy and caring,
We listen and we start sharing.
And as our stories spill out
We hear our inner spirit shout,
Releasing laughter and good cheer,
Sharing feelings without fear –
Sharing our histories and family lore
'Cause now that Spirit's out our door.
And we are strangers nevermore,
We'll share our good news evermore.
And now with coffee's aroma I find
Thoughts of my friends come to mind
Although it's not an eternal flame
It's still a memorial just the same

Amen!

ST. JAMES STAFF

Kurt Billings, Pastor	Cell: 235-8122
Peter Narum, Pastor	Cell: 469-9625
Michelle Lichty	Parish Administrator
Barb Roberts	Office Assistant
Susan Zimmer	Office Assistant
Barb Roberts	Card Ministry
Holly Parker	Director of Parish Education Ministries
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone,	Accompanists
Jim Erickson, Carol Murphy	
Barb Rasmussen, R.N.	Parish Nurse/Visitation Coord.
Heather Pearl	Director, St. James Preschool
Holly Parker, Lori Rudy,	St. James Preschool
Kristin Wills & Stacy Zimmerman	

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Susan Martin-Zernicke,	608-246-2025
Acting President	
Mark Krebsbach, Treasurer	608-438-6424
Jim Ruder, Secretary	608-212-6742
Jon Baldock	608-480-4091
Dennis Beres	608-845-9305
Desiree Canto	646-599-7021
Christine Kemnitz	608-886-6363
Julie Murphy	608-345-8533



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Measure of Our Commitment – thru 6/30/2023

Total Receipts Actual	Total Receipts Budget	Variance	% of Budget	Prior Year YTD Receipts	Variance vs. Prior Year
\$319,254**	\$366,815	\$(47,561)	-13.0%	\$350,542	(\$31,288)

**Amount includes \$70,692 from Seeds fund and \$6,900 from PPP fund.

Total Expenses Actual	Total Expenses Budget	Variance	% of Budget
\$366,635	\$382,013	\$15,378	4.0%

Seeds, Building & PPP Fund Bank & Dedicated Accounts

The Seeds & building fund account cash balance at month end was \$221,846. \$9,370 is due FROM the general operating fund. Our Mortgage loan balance is \$1,746,746.

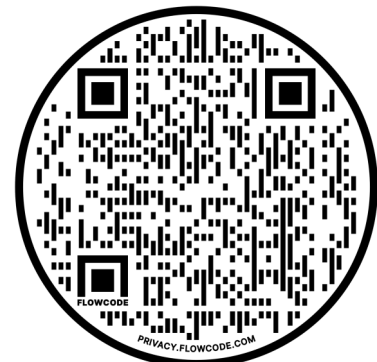
Money Market	\$220,841
Investment	<u>\$ 1,004</u>
	\$221,845
Net Due FROM general	\$(9,370)
Fund balances	<u>\$212,475</u>
PPP Dedicated Account	\$ 6,900 <i>amount left</i>
Building Fund Dedicated Account	\$27,259
Seeds Fund Dedicated Account	\$105,025
Dahlk gift for debt reduction	
Seeds Fund Dedicated Account	<u>\$ 73,291</u>
	<u>\$212,475</u>

Pledging/Giving

Thank you again for your continued support of our church. Your spirited generosity ensures we can carry our message and our works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!

If you have not already, we invite you to make a gift or ongoing pledge in 2023. We also encourage you to consider our electronic giving program. We accept donations made from your bank account and credit card or debit cards. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan.

An easy way to get started is to simply scan this QR code, which takes you directly to our giving page. Thank you!



Children, Youth & Families

St. James Summer Family Fun Nights

We've had a blast gathering for ping pong, corn hole, rock painting, volleyball, root beer floats and more!

Next Up:

MOVIE NIGHT

August 16th from 7:00-9:00pm!

*Brought to you by the
St. James High School Mentorship Team*



Children, Youth & Families

Vacation Bible School

August 7-10, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Family Celebration on August 10th from 11:45-12:30pm

For ages 3 through 103!

We are excited to launch into an out-of-this-world adventure and learn to shine Jesus' light through songs, stories, crafts, games, videos and snacks!

Here's a glance:



	Bible Point	Bible Story	Bible Verse
Monday	When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light!	Jesus comes as a baby to be king. (Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-2:12)	"Jesus...said, 'I am the light of the world.'" (John 8:12)
Tuesday	When people don't get along,	Jesus accepts Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:1-	"Live in harmony with each other." (Romans 12:16)
Wednesday	When good things happen, shine Je-	Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king. (Luke	"Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!" (Psalm 100:1)
Thursday	When people need help, shine	Philip helps the Ethiopian. (Acts 8:26-39)	"Let your good deeds shine...so that everyone will praise your heavenly Fa-

Thank you!

Thank you to all who have signed up to volunteer, to those who have donated supplies and to everyone keeping the children and leaders in your prayers! Our adventure wouldn't be possible without your support!

St. James Giving Garden

A special thank you to the Griessmeyer, Lichty, Jones and Sorbet families for their help in caring for the Giving Garden this summer! Badger Prairie Needs Network is grateful for the much needed produce that will benefit area families in need.

More help is needed! If you are interested in watering, weeding and harvesting the garden, please contact Holly at hparker@stjamesverona.org.



Community Meal

Wednesday, August 2 at 6:00 pm

The menu is a Salad Bar experience with many salad options, bread, beverages and dump cake for dessert.

Scan the code or visit our website to register.



St. James
Community
Meal





Mark Your Calendars for Fall!

Fall planning is underway and we can't wait to welcome our families back for a new school year! More information will be coming soon. In the meantime, mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

Wednesday, August 19

7:00-9:00 pm Movie Night

Registration begins for Sunday School & Confirmation

Sunday, September 17

8:30 am - Bible Presentations (3 year olds, 3rd graders, 7th graders) followed by 8:30 Sunday School for 3-6 year olds

9:30 am - Sunday School & Confirmation Kickoff & Orientation

October, day and time TBD

Blessing of the Pets

Wednesday, October 18

6:00 pm - Youth Group Kickoff

Wednesday, October 25

6-8 pm - Confirmation Dinner & Rehearsal

Sunday, October 29

10:45 am - Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism) Service

Fall Worship Schedule begins September 17

On September 17 we return to having two worship services on Sunday:

8:30 am & 10:45 am with Coffee Hour and

Youth and Adult Education opportunities between services.

The 5:00 pm Saturday evening service will continue unchanged.

We will Livestream the 8:30 am Sunday service

although we invite you to attend in person for a richer worship experience.

Congregational Life



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief Outreach

Sarah and Mary Circles are collecting items for Baby Care Kits and School Supply Kits. Needed items are quite specific so please take care below to see what is needed. Cash donations are always acceptable if that is easier for you to contribute. The drop-off bins are in the Narthex. Donated supplies can be dropped off at church thru September 3, 2023. **Thank you!**

Infant Layette items needed(new or gently used)

sleepers
onesies
sweaters/jackets
hats or bonnets
long and short sleeved shirts
long pants with no feet
socks in sizes Infant through 18 mo.
No fleece items please.

School supplies needed

70 sheet SPIRAL notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper
Ruler with both centimeters
and inches
Pencil sharpener
BLUNT point scissors
Black or blue ballpoint pens
(NO GEL INK)
2 1/2" erasers

Men's Group

Just a reminder that the St. James Men's Group meets on the First Monday of each month at Paddy Mac's (formerly It's Time) located at 608 W Verona Avenue. All are welcome.

Quilting Group

The Quilters meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:00 am. Interested members are invited to attend.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers the first and third Wednesdays of each month at St. James. All are welcome to join!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry workshops are the first & third Wednesday of the month at St. James from 9:30-11:30. Please join us for fellowship, laughter, knitting and crocheting. There is yarn and directions at the Welcome Center and all are welcome to join in.

The Camino de Santiago by Jim and Lorraine Ruder

We hiked over 450 miles of The Camino de Santiago, across Northern Spain this spring, tracing the path established St. James the Apostle as he spread the good news of Christianity into a region of what is now Spain. We walked about 12-14 miles each of the 35 hiking days, and built in 5 rest/exploration days. It was an amazing experience with so many opportunities to reflect on our faith, nurture our appreciation for the diversity of fellow Pilgrims (hikers) from around the world, grow in awe of the simple beauties in nature, and to humble ourselves. The belief of how each Pilgrim who embarks on the journey will inevitably discover their own personal Camino soon resonated with us. We met people, ages 8-85 on the trail, some traveling with friends or family, and some were on their own. We benefited from the goodwill shared among Pilgrims and the gracious hosts who live in Northern Spain. Despite establishing a rather doable pace and routine, we were surprised to learn that it never became automatic to hike the distance to our next destination like a commute via car can become. We endured blisters, muscle aches, and shin splints. We gained a new appreciation for distance and time. The overriding faith message for us was love- love of ourselves, all other people, our planet Earth, and above all, our God. We, Lorraine and Jim, would be glad to meet with you for a Morning Conversation following the 9:00 Service on Sunday, July 2 in order to share more pictures or answer questions you might have. As much as we enjoy traveling it has always been a joy to return to Wisconsin, and specifically our home in Verona and the St. James Church Community. A Pilgrim's Prayer, which we came upon in the middle of the hike at a tiny little Catholic Church, which was once the church of the individual Priest, who took it upon himself in the late 1960s to paint yellow arrows to provide necessary guidance through cities, woods, farms, and vast open fields is attached. Over 250,000 people are expected to hike at least a portion of the trail this year.



Pilgrims' Prayer

Although I may have traveled all the roads, crossed mountains and valleys from East to West, if I have not discovered the freedom to be myself, I have arrived nowhere. Although I may have shared all of my possessions with people of other languages and cultures; made friends with Pilgrims of a thousand paths, or shared albergues with saints and princes, if I am not capable of forgiving my neighbor tomorrow, I have arrived nowhere. Although I may have carried my pack from beginning to end and waited for every Pilgrim in need of encouragement, or given my bed to one who arrived later than I, given my bottle of water in exchange for nothing; if upon returning to my home and work, I am not able to create brotherhood or make happiness, peace and unity, I have arrived nowhere. Although I may have had food and water each day, and enjoyed a roof and shower every night; or may have had my injuries well attended, If I have not discovered in all that the love of God, I have arrived nowhere. Although I may have seen all the monuments and contemplated the best sunsets; although I may have learned a greeting in every language or tried the clean water from every fountain; if I have not discovered who is the author of so much free beauty and so much peace, I have arrived nowhere. If from today I do not continue walking on my path, searching far and living according to what I have learned; if from today I do not see in every person, friend or foe a companion on the Camino; if from today I cannot recognize God, the God of Jesus of Nazareth as the one God of my life, I have arrived nowhere. Fraydino



From the Parish Nurse...

It's so hard to believe we are coming to the end of summer already. I hope and pray yours was a safe and healthy season.

I want to remind you that as the weather changes and daylight shortens, I am always available to you by phone or email. I will include those details at the end of this article.


I can use digital communication to reach out to you. I recently read that the average person checks social media 25 times per day. Using digital avenues, social media, or messaging applications allows each of us to use everyday events to point to God and his mercy. Discussion starters can bring a host of hurting people into a space where we can reach out to each other. Through email we are able to get the latest events and updates going on at church and livestream our services. There are applications on reading and interpreting the Bible and daily Bible verses with short prayers. Sometimes, discussion can be how "just in time" someone came to help, an answer to a prayer, or an event where those in the area can see God at work like: Community Dinner, Drive-In Dinner, and many others.

1 Corinthians 2:4 –5 states where Paul reminds us that our message may not be ours, thus revealing the Holy Spirit and His power. Understanding our faith is not from men, but from God. When we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us, we can communicate in many ways, not just face to face.

God's blessings,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., PCN.

Phone: 608-845-6922 ext. 234, Email: brasmussen@stjamesverona.org



Blood Pressure Checks

We will hold the next blood pressure check will be held on August 13 after the 9:00 am service. All are welcome!



Thank you from the family of Donna Maurer

We are most appreciative of the care and support shown to our family for Donna Lee Maurer (and all of us) during the past moths by Pastor Peter, Pastor Kurt, the St. James staff and our friends & family in the congregation. The service and luncheon were a wonderful tribute to Donna and her life. May she rest in peace in God's arms.

With our sincere thanks for your love and generosity.

– Marilyn Maurer and family



Preschool News

We finished off the school year strong and are busy planning for school to start on September 5th for our Pre-K class. The 3 year old classes start on September 13th and the 2 ½ classes start on September 18th. We only have a few spots left in our 3 year old class if you know anyone interested they can contact Heather at sjp@stjamesverona.org.

Lori Rudy Retirement

In June, we celebrated the retirement of Lori Rudy. She has taught at St. James Preschool for 10 years. She was a 3's teacher in our Green Room but has also taught in the 2 ½ and Pre-K classes at times during her time with us. Lori is excited to spend her "free" time with all her grand babies and grand dogs. We will miss having Lori around and her kindness and dedication. Thank you, Lori, for your amazing service to St. James Preschool, the staff, the families, and the children. You have forever touched all our lives.



New Members Welcomed in April

We welcomed the following new members on April 28. Unfortunately, we do not have a photo of this class.

If you took one and would like to share, please email Michelle Lichty at mlichty@stjamesverona.org.

Jason & Stacy Frey, Adelynn

Chris & Aimee Bjorkland

Debra Gerber

Alex Johnson & Maya Mockert

Mitch & Taylor Koester, Lyla

Steven & Susan Lingard

Judy Salzwedel

Linda Scheid

Steven & Susan Lingard

PARISH NOTES

If you have someone that you would like to add to this prayer list please email (office@stjamesverona.org) or call the church office (845-6922) or fill out a form which can be found at the Welcome Center at St. James.



We remember our members in our prayers, especially Anna, Jon, Pam Hegg, Daniel MacLaren, Diane Maurer and Monica Pechan.

We also remember Karen Bittrich (mother of Elise Taft), Kimberly Choi (daughter of Norma Bader), Dorothy (mother of Sue Zernicke), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Everette Reynolds (granddaughter of Dave & Sandy Saether), Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer) Mary Volker, (sister of John Volker), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), and friends Camille, Chris, John, Ky, Susan Kennedy, Leo, and Debbie Loughrin.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Judy Marcum as they mourn her death; and to the family of Barbara Rasmussen as they mourn the death of her cousin. Julie Weigel; to the family of Donna Maurer as they mourn her death; and to the family of Sue & Jim Zernicke as they mourn the loss of their niece, Jennifer.

In Residence: **Four Winds** - Zelma Danna; **Noel Manor**—Dee Becker, Dick & Helen Dignan, Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Dick Herfel, Lloyd Hornbacher, Marilyn Le Moine, Jim Path, Peggy Papenfus, Chuck & Marilyn Roum, John Scharer, & Jim Schumann. **Crossroads Care Center of Sun Prairie** - Kay Hankins. **Ingleside** – Betty Burgenske. **Capital Lakes** – Carol Path.

Serving in the Military: Gavin Bazala, Wyatt Breitnauer, Bryan & Hannah Tordoff, Judy Watters, and Evan Spoon.

Verona, WI 53593-1492

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